



# District Leader

## Biographical Information

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Office:  District Number:

Toastmasters member since:

### Education:

B.S Cornell University

Pathways Path completions: Persuasive Influence, Strategic Relationships

Pathways in progress: Dynamic Leadership, Visionary Communication 3, Motivational Strategies 3

### Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

PQD Current, CGD 24-25, Chief Contest Chair 23, Div C Director 21-22, Area 11 Director 20-21

President: Goldmine 2x 19-20, 21-22, People Growing Together 23-24

VPE: 3 clubs 25-26 People Growing Together, MProv Masters, Ally Leaders Circle VPPR- Goldmine 22-23, VPM -EYW 21-22, Treasurer Goldmine 18-19

### Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Distinguished Toastmaster DTM Division Director of the year - 21-22

### Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

Director of Technology Delivery, Ally Financial (2017–Present)

I have led cross-functional teams of 13+ professionals responsible for delivering complex initiatives on time and within budget. I established the Enterprise Intake Governance Process and guided the technology integration of a major acquisition, achieving full alignment in under three months.

MBTrading – Online Financial Startup (1999–2017)

Joining as an early employee, I grew with the organization to serve as Chief Technology Officer, helping scale the company from startup to a nationally recognized trading platform. My role required building high-performing teams, developing procedures, managing budgets, and creating a culture focused on continuous improvement.

### What experience do you have in strategic planning?

My strongest strategic planning experience comes from serving as Club Growth Director and Program Quality Director, where long-range vision must translate into practical action for clubs and members.

As Club Growth Director, I developed a strategic pipeline for chartering new clubs, including a launch funnel that guided prospects, and supported sponsor and mentor teams from interest to chartering and finally club excellence. As Program Quality Director, I balance strategic planning with execution. I regularly analyze membership and education data to identify gaps and partner with the CGD on targeted initiatives, including a learning series focused on membership growth, the key challenge facing many clubs today.

Across these roles, my approach is to set clear goals, engage stakeholders, measure progress, and adjust plans so the District moves forward with purpose and unity.

### What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have more than 25 years of experience in financial technology, working closely with budgets, compliance, and financial oversight. While serving in a broker-dealer environment, I held a Series 24 license as a Securities Principal, which required a strong understanding of financial controls, regulatory responsibilities, and ethical decision-making.

Throughout my career, I have participated in acquisitions and due-diligence reviews, evaluating financial statements, contracts, and risk considerations to support sound business decisions. In addition, my husband and I manage several LLCs for passive real estate investments, where I am actively involved in budgeting, expense tracking, and long-term financial planning.

### What experience do you have in developing procedures?

I have over 20 years of experience developing clear, practical procedures that help teams work more effectively. In my professional career at MB Trading and Ally Financial, I partnered with leaders across multiple departments to design processes that brought structure, consistency, and accountability to complex initiatives.

Most recently, I led the creation of an enterprise governance process that guides how new projects are reviewed and approved. The process now supports more than 100 reviews each year and has helped multiple business units work more efficiently while meeting security and budget expectations.

Whether in business or Toastmasters, my approach is the same: understand the need, engage those affected, document clear steps, and continuously improve so members and teams can focus on what matters most—achieving their goals.

### What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Serving in previous leadership roles, especially at the District level, has helped me recognize the boundaries of my own comfort zone and how stepping beyond them unlocks both personal and organizational growth. These experiences have strengthened my confidence, resilience, and ability to lead with empathy and clarity.

I have learned that effective leadership is not about doing everything yourself, but about empowering others to contribute their strengths. My approach has evolved to one of trust and collaboration. I practice a “trust and verify” mindset, offering encouragement and gentle guidance when needed to help teams stay aligned and successful.

Most importantly, I’ve learned that listening, recognizing effort, and investing in people creates stronger clubs, stronger leaders, and a more vibrant District.

### Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I want to serve as District Director because I believe this moment is both historic and full of opportunity. As Toastmasters International enters its second century, honoring a strong legacy while embracing innovation, I am excited to help lead the newly combined District 217 with unity, purpose, and optimism.

Bringing clubs from three former districts together will require listening, collaboration, and a shared vision that reminds every member we are one community where leaders are made. I see this not as a hurdle, but as an inspiring challenge to reconnect clubs, strengthen relationships, and build a culture of mutual support.

My professional experience guiding teams through acquisitions and organizational change has prepared me to lead with empathy, clarity, and steady focus. I am a collaborative, driven leader who values people first and results second to none. I would be honored to serve the district: supporting clubs, empowering leaders, and ensuring every member has the opportunity to grow with confidence.

### In your opinion, what are the District mission’s major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

The District mission has two major objectives: to build new clubs and to support all clubs in achieving excellence. My strategy to achieve these goals is built on three pillars: Strategic Club As we prepare to lead the newly combined District 217, I will focus on unified and consistent messaging that frames this transition as a positive and motivational challenge, strengthening In addition, I will align he District budget to empower the PQD, CGD, and PRM with resources for impactful marketing, quality education, and targeted club support.

My ultimate goal is to lead the District to Distinguished status by ensuring every club and every member has the opportunity for meaningful personal and leadership transformations.

### Additional information about yourself:

I was born and raised in New York City and spent more than a decade in Southern California before my husband and I proudly made North Carolina our home nine years ago.

I embrace a holistic approach to life and enjoy hobbies that connect me to community and nature. Permaculture gardening has become a favorite hobby, along with caring for our backyard chickens, fermenting vegetables, and exploring ways to thrive in my second half-century with energy, balance, and gratitude.